

Message

From:Svante Myrick

TO:

B Estes; ; E Lawyer; ; Cayuga Radio Group; News36

WENY; ;

Cc:

Bc:

Thursday, January 05, 2012 3:59:45 PM

Subject:2012 City of Ithaca Committee Structure

Message Body:

Hello folks,

See the below for immediate release:

## **MAYOR SVANTE MYRICK ANNOUNCES NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE DESIGNED TO TACKLE CONSTITUENT CONCERNS**

Mayor Svante Myrick announced today the new 2012 Common Council committee structure.

“On the campaign trail I heard loud and clear that people want a government that is more accountable and more responsive. They want a land use policy that is easier to understand, will spur development where it makes most sense, and protects our beautiful residential neighborhoods.

“They want a budget process that is easier to engage with and gives them a clearer understanding of how their tax dollars are being spent. I’ve arranged these committees to tackle exactly these problems.”

The Government Performance and Accountability (GPA) Committee will work to create new levels of responsiveness, accountability and performance by creating a City Report Card from our citywide survey, instituting performance management, reforming the city’s public information outreach and continuing charter and code review.

The Planning and Economic Development (PED) Committee will work to create more housing and more economic opportunities while preserving historic resources and protecting residential neighborhoods by overseeing the completion of a citywide comprehensive plan.

The City Administration Committee will oversee the very important ongoing contract negotiations and annual budget review.

### **Committee Roster**

Planning and Economic Development Committee – Chairperson Jennifer Dotson, Seph Murtagh, Ellen McCollister, Eddie Rooker, Graham Kerslick

City Administration Committee – Chairperson J.R. Clairborne, Cynthia Brock, Donna Fleming, Graham Kerslick, Chris Proulx

Government Performance and Accountability – Chairperson Deb Mohlenhoff, Ellen McCollister, Chris Proulx, Eddie Rooker, Seph Murtagh

Message

From:"Lawyer, Elizabeth" <elawyer@gannett.com>

TO:

Cc:

Bc:

Friday, April 06, 2012 3:04:16 PM

Subject:City sidewalks

Message Body:

Svante-

I'm writing up a story on the city sidewalks discussion that seems to be brewing. It's been brought up at several meetings, and with construction season underway, it seems like a good time to look at it. I'd like to catch you on the phone sometime today, but Annie says you're in back-to-back meetings. Here are my main questions. If you have a second to look them over and see if you can offer anything beyond what you have said in meetings, I would appreciate it.

> Is the policy discussion on city sidewalks a serious one? Do you think this could lead to an actual shift in city policy regarding how sidewalks are paid for?

> Currently, tax-exempt properties still pay for their own sidewalk repairs, according to an earlier interview I had with Lynne Yost. If the city changed to a tax to pay for sidewalks, those tax-exempt properties would not contribute. Would the added tax burden outweigh the benefit of having all residents pay for sidewalks?

Thanks! I'll be in the office until 5:30 or 6 tonight.

Liz

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Liz Lawyer

Government reporter, The Ithaca Journal

(607) 274-9246

Message

From:Svante Myrick

TO:

E Lawyer

Cc:

Bc:

Saturday, April 07, 2012 11:53:06 AM

Subject:Re: City sidewalks

Message Body:

Sorry I didn't get a chance to see this! Nice story today though.

Only thing I would add - what if we charged for sidewalks through a citywide sidewalk assessment? Then the tax-exempt properties would not be exempt!

Take care,

Svante Myrick

Mayor, City of Ithaca

108 E. Green Street

Ithaca, NY 14850

607-274-6501

>>> "Lawyer, Elizabeth" 04/06/12 3:04 PM >>>

Svante-

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Liz

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Liz Lawyer

Government reporter, The Ithaca Journal

(607) 274-9246

Message

From:Svante Myrick

TO:

E Lawyer

Cc:

Bc:

Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:44:32 AM

Subject:Fwd: Re: PRESS inquiry - pending deadline

Message Body:

Liz,

Here's the email that I spoke of that has a little info on Svante's thinking on the parking space...

Annie

Svante Myrick

Mayor, City of Ithaca

108 E. Green Street

Ithaca, NY 14850

607-274-6501

&gt;&gt;&gt; "Theo Scheriff Jr." &lt;[REDACTED]> 5/30/2012 11:33 AM

&gt;&gt;&gt;

Great.

Thanks!

Since I freelance, I can never really guarantee where my work prints, until it prints - but unless you hear back from me otherwise, you can look for this story in this Monday's Tompkins Weekly.

-theo-

[www.RealPatriots.info](http://www.RealPatriots.info)

On Wed, May 30, 2012 at 9:05 AM, Svante Myrick &lt;mayormyrick@cityofithaca.org> wrote:

Sorry I missed you Theo! Always working! In this job you can have an off day but never a day off.

Lemme take a crack:

1. I decided almost a year ago now during the campaign. I knew that it is hard for people to access their mayor. I'm also not a fan of how much public space we reserve solely for vehicles. It struck me that I could turn both conditions on their head.
2. I'd seen other examples of parking spaces converted to parks. Annually a group of Cornell students takes over two parking spaces in Collegetown. They feed the meter, lay down astroturf and pop up chairs.
3. Turning a private exclusive use into a public open use - a parking space into a park - is only a small statement, but it is an important statement. I think it says something about the way we should be using our urban space. I think it says something about our commitment to the environment and energy reduction. Most importantly though it's a reminder for all of us to rethink what's possible. Every city in the country is dealing with a budget crisis. There are a lot of people betting against American cities. There are a lot of people betting against Ithaca. But with creativity and energy I believe we can succeed. And we'll succeed by taking every little thing we have - and turning it into something special.
4. The response has been terrific. I'd say 90 percent praise and 10 percent bewilderment. Every time I sit out at the park or walk by I talk to someone who is enjoying the park.
5. We'll see!

Svante Myrick  
Mayor, City of Ithaca

108 E. Green Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
607-274-6501 ( tel:607-274-6501 )

&gt;&gt;&gt; "Theo Scheriff Jr." 05/29/12 4:20 PM &gt;&gt;&gt;

Mr. Mayor,

I was surprised to hear from you on Memorial Day. I tried reaching you twice today by phone. So now, First question:  
Why were you in the office on Memorial Day?

Next, and originally;

1. When did you get the idea to convert your parking space into Park Space?

2. What inspired you to do it?
3. What message, if any, do you hope it sends to the public - be they Ithacans or visitors?
4. What has been the response so far?
5. Any future plans of the same type, elsewhere within Ithaca?

My deadline is tomorrow (5-30-12) at noon. Thanks.

-theo-

██████████ ( tel: ██████████ )



Message

From: "Lawyer, Elizabeth" <elawyer@gannett.com>

TO:

Svante Myrick

Cc:

Bc:

Thursday, May 31, 2012 12:24:29 PM

Subject: RE: Re: PRESS inquiry - pending deadline

Message Body:

Thank you!

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Liz Lawyer

Government reporter, The Ithaca Journal

(607) 274-9246

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From: Svante Myrick [mailto:MayorMyrick@cityofithaca.org]

Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:45 AM

To: Lawyer, Elizabeth

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Svante Myrick

Mayor, City of Ithaca

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Ithaca, NY 14850

607-274-6501

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Mayor, City of Ithaca

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